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Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

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Appl. No. : 09/684,658
Filed : Oct. 10, 2000
Title : Weighted Pulley System Crowd Control Stanchion
Grp/A.U. : 3629
Examiner : Ernesto Garcia
Date : Jan. 31, 2003
Re: : Correction of failure to comply with 37 CFR 1.192 (c)

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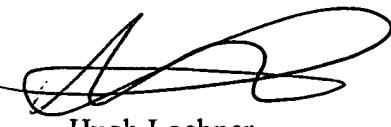
Attached please find Appendix - Claims. Note the following:

I withdraw the Appendix - Claims mailed January 23, 2003 for the following reasons.

The means for braking the retraction of the tape is not the membrane, it is the piston. The membrane alone would not brake the retraction of the tape. It also requires that the tube be sealed at the bottom and that the weight and membrane trap air inside the tube. Furthermore, it would be possible for pneumatic braking without the use of the membrane by using another means of preventing the escape of air from between the weight and the inner wall of the tube. For example, one could use piston rings, as is found in automobile engines, or simply insure that there is a very close fit between the weight and the inner wall of the tube. The former, however, would be unnecessarily expensive and complicated and the latter has the limitations that (a) both the inner wall of the tube and the gravity means would have to be fabricated to very close tolerances (b) normal wear might enlarge the inner diameter of the tube, reducing the pneumatic braking effect as more air escapes through the enlarged space between the weight and the tube's enlarged inner diameter, and (c) any very minor dent in the tube would bind the weight inside the tube. A membrane, being flexible, allows greater tolerance, but it is not vital. However, since I am required to describe my preferred embodiment of the invention, I have described the stanchion with a piston having a membrane, since this is the simplest method of manufacturing the item.

I have reworded the claims to incorporate "pneumatic means for braking" since that phrase is used in the specification. Claim 5 claims pneumatic braking, claim 6 claims pneumatic braking by piston means, claim 8 claims the weight as the piston means, and claim 9 claims the weight and membrane as the piston means.

4. Status of Amendments. Claims 5, 6, are herewith amended subsequent to the final rejection. Claim 7 is cancelled. Claims 8 and 9 are added.


Hugh Loebner

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Appendix – Claims

Claim 1. An extendible guidance tape crowd control stanchion comprising (a) a base, (b) a post attached to said base, (c) a fixed top block assembly attached to said post, said top block assembly comprising a plurality of rollers, (b) (d) a movable bottom block assembly contained within said post, said bottom block assembly comprising a plurality of rollers and a weight, (e) (e) an extendible and retractable guidance tape laced between said top block assembly and said bottom block assembly, said guidance tape comprising a tape and means for attaching said tape.

Claim 2. Cancelled

Claim 3. Cancelled

Claim 4. Cancelled

Claim 5. An extendible guidance tape crowd control stanchion comprising (a) a base (b) a post attached to said base, (c) an extendible guidance tape contained within said post, said guidance tape comprising (d) a snap end; (e) and a tape, (f) (e) gravity means to retract said tape, and (g) (f) pneumatic means to brake for braking the retraction of said guidance tape ~~by piston means~~.

Claim 6. An extendible guidance tape ~~rown~~ crowd control stanchion according to claim 5 where said ~~piston~~ pneumatic means ~~of slowing~~ for braking the retraction of said guidance tape comprises ~~a membrane attached to said weight~~ pneumatic means piston means.

Claim 7. Cancelled

Claim 8. An extendible guidance tape crowd control stanchion according to claim 6 wherein said piston means for pneumatic braking comprises said gravity means.

Claim 9. An extendible guidance tape crowd control stanchion according to claim 8 wherein said piston means for pneumatic braking comprises said gravity means and a membrane.